



COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

March 26, 2004

Dear Volunteer Tax Return Participant:

As we approach the end of a very successful filing season, I want to take a moment to personally thank you for your contribution to this critical program. To those disadvantaged by income, language or disability, filing a tax return can be a very daunting challenge. Yet volunteers, such as yourself, work late into the evening and rise early on weekend mornings to help those less fortunate than themselves.

I fully understand that tax return preparation is a difficult task to do well. But through your personal efforts, and those of over 100,000 other volunteers, your commitment will assist nearly two million underserved taxpayers this year. People volunteer because of a personal desire to assist those in need. I know you have choices of how and where to donate your valuable time. I am proud that you chose to help American citizens with their tax responsibilities.

As I have stated publicly and before Congress, there is an alarming growth in the number of people who believe it is acceptable to cheat on their tax returns. The volunteer tax preparation program and volunteers like you are a critical part of the solution to reverse this trend. By helping taxpayers understand their tax obligations and facilitating their participation, you uphold the integrity of the tax system. Given the complexity of the tax code, I urge you to continue using all available tools and resources to prepare accurate returns.

Again, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize your invaluable contribution to members of your community and the American tax system.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Everson